

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Title

The title has been objected to as not being descriptive. In response, a new title, which is more clearly indicative of the claimed invention, is presented herein for the Examiner's consideration and approval.

Specification

The specification is objected to because of the minor informalities noted by the Examiner. In response, the specification has been amended to attend to the presence of any informalities, including those kindly identified by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Claims Status

Claims 1 and 3 through 12 are now pending in the application. Claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 1 through 11 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. Claim 12 has been added to accord Applicants an additional scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claim 1 is the only independent claim in the application.

Claim Objection

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 7 and 8 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in

independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. The claims remain in their dependent form, inasmuch as it is believed that Claim 1 from which they depend will be found to be allowable.

Art Rejection

Claims 1 through 6 and 9 through 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,091,922 (Bisaiji).

The rationale underlying the rejection is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Art Rejection

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 calls for an image forming apparatus that includes a movable image bearing member; an image forming means for forming an image on the image bearing member with toner; a transfer medium on which the image on the image bearing member is transferred by the transfer medium contacting with the image bearing member while the transfer medium is moving at a predetermined surficial moving speed different from a surficial moving speed of the image bearing member; and control means for controlling the image forming means to form, on the image bearing member, a predetermined image having a predetermined pattern adjacent to a normal image formed by the image forming means and downstream of the normal image with respect to a moving direction of the image bearing member.

With reference to column 6, lines 5 through 39, the Examiner asserts that Bisaiji discloses “an intermediate transfer member on which the developer image on the image bearing member is transferred while the intermediate transfer member is moving at a

predetermined surficial moving speed different from a surficial moving speed of the image bearing member”.

It is respectfully submitted that Bisaiji does not disclose that a moving speed of a drum 9 is different from a moving speed of a belt 19 when an image on the drum 9 is transferred onto the belt 19. In Bisaiji, belt 19 is described as being “rotated at a constant speed in contact with drum 9.” See column 6, lines 1 and 2. The movement of belt 19 may be controlled by either a constant speed system or a “quick return” system. See column 6, lines 7 through 9. The drum 9 and the belt 19 move in the same direction and at a “same linear velocity.” See column 4, lines 12 through 19; see especially, line 19.

In Bisaiji, the back-and-forth system sequentially forms a plurality of one-color images. This system forms the plurality of one-color images on the belt 19, which is continuously rotated at a constant speed in the direction indicated by the arrow shown in Figure 1. It is respectfully submitted that Bisaiji does not disclose that belt 19 and drum 9 rotate at different speeds in this system.

The “quick return” system forms images using two or more colors. An image on the drum 9 is transferred onto the belt 19 moving in a forward direction. Then, the belt 19 is simultaneously moved away from the drum 9 and quickly returned in a backward direction to a position where the belt 19 stands by for a subsequent image formation. See column 6, lines 27 and 28.

Since the belt 19 in the “quick return” system is quickly returned after the image on the drum 9 is transferred, it is believed that a moving speed of the belt 19 in a forward direction is different from a moving speed of the belt 19 in a backward direction. However, during the backward movement, the belt 19 is separated from the drum 9. Even

though different speeds are used in this system, an image on the drum 9 cannot be transferred onto the belt 19 during movement of the belt in the backward direction.

It is respectfully submitted that Bisaiji does not disclose that a moving speed of the drum 9 and the belt 19 is different when an image is transferred onto the belt. Accordingly, Bisaiji does not anticipate the invention of amended Claim 1.

Dependent Claims

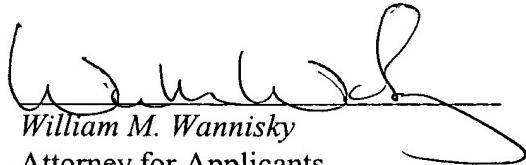
Claims 3 through 12 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicants' invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the claims on file are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



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